

**COCKERMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
John Patterson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1954

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector

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Cockermouth Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Cockermouth Urban District, for the year 1954.

My appointment which is jointly with Cockermouth Rural, Keswick Urban and the Cumberland County Council was from 1st December, 1954, and although but a recent arrival in the district my varying duties with these Authorities, in particular the medical inspections in schools, have given me a more intimate knowledge of the area and its people than would have been possible with any one Authority in so short a time.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council and to the Clerk of the Council and his staff for their unfailing kindness and in particular to Mr. M. Dixon, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his help and encouragement in my first year with your Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PATTERSON,

Medical Officer of Health,

COCKERMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1954.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area :—

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1954)	5,280
Number of inhabited houses (end 1954) according to Rate	Books 1,444
Rateable Value £30,118
Sum represented by Penny Rate (approx.) £117

RAINFALL.

Records,* taken at Sunscapes Reservoir, Cockermouth, 330 feet above sea level :—

1954	Inches of rain	Over 1 inch or rain fell on the following dates :—
January	.. 3.29	
February	.. 3.19	
March	.. 2.51	
April	.. 1.10	
May	.. 4.43	28th.
June	.. 5.01	15th.
July	.. 5.02	23rd.
August	.. 4.79	
September	.. 7.26	15th.
October	.. 10.25	15th., 17th, 23rd.
November	.. 8.21	23rd.
December	.. 5.71	1st.
Total	60.77	

(5 years' average rainfall 1949-1953 inclusive—44.22 inches).

*Kindly given by Mr. Maurice Dixon, Surveyor, Cockermouth Urban District Council.

POPULATION.

The population figure of 5,280 is given for the year 1954 by the Registrar General and called by him the "Home Population". On this figure the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based.

The population figure for 1953 was 5,250.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

Cockermouth is an old market town (its Royal Charter having been granted in the year 1221). For many years Saw-Mills, Building Contractors, a Brewery and the Railway have employed a considerable number of persons (mainly male) and since 1939 five new works of employment were commenced; one of these, a Blood Manure factory has ceased; the other four are made up of a Shoe and Slipper factory, a Clothing factory, a light Engineering works and a Precast Concrete works, employing altogether over 900 persons including a large number of female labour, particularly at the two first-named which also have workers from outside the Urban area. There are as well, of course, those individuals absorbed by the usual businesses and trades of a small country town. A few find employment about the large cattle Mart, whilst a few are engaged in agriculture, and in coal mines, quarries and steelworks outside the district.

Vital Statistics.**BIRTHS:—**

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	41	43	84
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/> 43	<hr/> 43	<hr/> 86
Birth rate per 1,000 population			16.3
Adjusted birth rate			16.6
Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	0	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			22.7

DEATHS:—

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths (all ages)	37	35	72
Crude death rate per 1,000 population		13.7	
Adjusted death rate	...	12.6	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages)		1	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		11	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil	
Maternal deaths		Nil	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		1	
Death rate for all infants under 1 year of age			12 (approx.)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			12 (approx.)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil

BIRTHS.

Live Births:--There were 86 Live Births (43 males and 43 females registered as belonging to the district. Of these 2 were illegitimate. (1953—82 live births).

The net live birth rate was accordingly 16.3 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 15.6 for the previous year.

As regards Births and Deaths the Registrar-General has supplied Area Comparability Factors which allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas and are used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas. The factor for births is 1.02 adjusting the birth rate, therefore to 16.6.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

		Adjusted
Birth Rates 1954 — Cumberland	16.4	
Rural District of Cumberland	15.7	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	17.5	
England and Wales	15.2	
Cockermouth Rural District	13.6	
Cockermouth Urban District	16.3	16.6

The percentage of illegitimate live births was 2.3 compared with Nil in 1953.

Still Births.--There were 2 still births registered, so that the still birth rate per 1,000 total births was 25.3 as compared with 35.29 in 1953.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Cockermouth was 72. This gave a crude death rate of 13.7 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.8 for the previous year.

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1954.

Causes of Death		Males. Females.	
	All Causes	37	35
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	0	0
2. Tuberculosis, Other	...	1	0
3. Syphilitic Disease	..	0	0
4. Diphtheria	..	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	..	0	0
6. Meningo-coccal Infections	..	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	0	0
8. Measles	..	0	0
9. Other infective and Parasitic disease	...	1	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	0	0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	0	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	..	0	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	2	3
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	0	0
16. Diabetes	..	0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	5	4
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	9	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	0	0
20. Other heart disease	...	9	9
21. Other circulatory disease	...	1	1
22. Influenza	...	0	1
23. Pneumonia	..	0	1
24. Bronchitis	..	1	0
25. Other diseases of the Respiratory System	...	1	0
26. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	...	0	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	...	1	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	3	3
33. Motor-vehicle accidents	..	0	0
34. All other accidents	...	1	3
35. Suicide	..	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total	...	1	0
Legitimate	...	1	0
Illegitimate	...	0	0
LIVE BIRTHS } Total		...	43
} Legitimate		...	41
} Illegitimate		...	2
STILL BIRTHS } Total		...	0
} Legitimate		...	0
} Illegitimate		..	0

The comparability factor given for adjusting the crude death rate (for the reasons explained under Births) is 0.92. The adjusted death rate for Cocker-mouth Urban District was, therefore, 12.6

Comparisons of crude and adjusted death rates are shown below :—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates 1954 — Cumberland	11.9	
Rural Districts of Cumberland	12.1	
Urban Districts of Cumberland	11.4	
England and Wales	11.3	
Cockermouth Rural District	11.6	
Cockermouth Urban District	13.7	12.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There was 1 death (legit. male) among infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 12 per 1,000 births as compared with 3 deaths with a rate of 37 for 1953.

No death occurring among illegitimate infants, the Illegitimate Mortality Rate for 1953 was, therefore, nil per 1,000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality rate of 12 per 1,000 legitimate births. These latter rates were, respectively, nil and 37 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1954 :—		
Cumberland		27.6
Rural Districts of Cumberland		29.6
Urban Districts of Cumberland		24.9
England and Wales		25.5
Cockermouth Rural District		23.0
Cockermouth Urban District		12

Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age :—

Cause of Death	under	1—2	Total	under	1—3	3—6	6—9	9—12	Total
	1 wk.	weeks	4 wks	mths.	mths.	mths.	mths.	mths	lyr.
Congenital Malformation	1		1						1

The death occurred 6 hours after birth.

SENILE DEATH RATE.

52 persons had attained the age of 65 years and upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 74.4 per cent of the total deaths, as compared with 64.5 for 1953.

Age	Male	Female	Total
65 - 70 years	4	5	9
70 - 75 years	7	5	12
75 - 80 years	8	7	15
80 - 85 years	5	7	12
85 - 90 years	2	1	3
90 years and upwards	1	Nil	1

Violence:—The death rate due to violence (all forms) was .75 per 1,000 of the population in the Cocker-mouth Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accident, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each per 1,000 of the population in comparison with 1953 :—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Accidents		Other Violence excl'g Road Traffic Acc,		Total Violence	
	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953
Deaths	nil	1	nil	nil	4	1	4	2
% of all causes	nil	1.61	nil	nil	5.5	1.61	5.5	3.22
D. R. per 1000 popln.	nil	.19	nil	nil	.75	.19	.75	.38

The 4 violence deaths include 3 due to fracture of femur caused by an accidental fall, and the other, from accidental drowning.

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 11 cases as follows.—

Primary Organ	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	1	2	3
Colon	0	1	1
Breast	0	3	3
Prostate	1	0	1
Ovary	0	1	1
Epidermis	0	1	1
Mediastinum	1	0	1

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 2.1 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 8 cases with a rate of 1.5 in 1953 and 15 with a rate of 2.9 in 1952.

The ages ranged from 75 to 85 years in males and from 46 to 79 in females.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Vide also page 12.

One death was attributed to Tuberculosis.

	Males	Females
Respiratory	0	0
Non-Respiratory	1	0

The Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate therefore was .19 per 1,000 of the population compared with .18 for England and Wales.

Similarly, the death rate due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis was nil per 1,000 of the population the same as in 1953.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector Mr. Maurice M. Dixon, M.Inst. Mun. E., C.R. San. I., being also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

.....

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1943, the County Council is the Authority responsible for this important public service (taking over in 1948). Under their comprehensive Ambulance Scheme for Cumberland adequate provision has been made for Cockermouth Urban District.

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Other particulars under Provision of Health Services remain as detailed in previous reports.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified among civilians during 1954 in the Cockermouth Urban District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis was 10.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1954

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases notified 1952 admitted to Hosp. or San.	Deaths of notified cases
Smallpox ..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ..	0	0	0
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ..	0	0	0
Measles ..	1	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Meningitis ..	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1	0
Typhoid Group, etc.	0	0	0
Pneumonia ..	1	1	0
Tuberculosis:—			
Pulmonary Males	1	1	0
Females	2	1	0
Non-Pulmonary Males	4	2	0
Females	0	0	0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1954.

Disease	Jan	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May.	J'ne	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Pneumonia			1										1
Measles				1									1
Pneumococcal Meningitis				1									1
Tuberculosis—													
Pulmonary		1				1						1	3
Other Forms		1				1						2	4

No case of Scarlet Fever was notified—see foregoing tables.

The Scarlet Fever case and death rate per 1,000 of the population, therefore, were both nil, as in 1953.

There was, again, no Diphtheria notification or death, so that the case and death rate per 1,000 of the population were both nil, the same as in 1953.

The immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was continued as before. Most of the actual inoculations were given (by me) at the School Clinic (Harford House, Main Street) as in previous years. The co-operation of local Medical Practitioners and Head Teachers, and particularly that of the County Health Visitor, Miss Horn, is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

According to figures kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical officer during the year under review 15 (1953—25) elementary school children (5—14 years) and 71 (1953-81) infants under 5 years were given primary injections whilst 64 children received a single reinforcing dose (these are children who received two primary doses 4 to 5 years previously).

The number of children immunised during the last 5 years (aged 0-15 years) was 676 whilst the corresponding figure for the five years previous to that was 209.

It is essential that there should be a high level of immunisation among children generally and particularly in regard to infants under one year of age.

There were no notifications of Polio-myelitis, Typhoid (including Para-typhoid) Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, Erysipelas or Ophthalmia Neonatorum, but there was one case of Pneumococcal Meningitis.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No notification was received. The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia (including Puerperal Fever) which is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population, was therefore Nil per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still births).

There were no Maternal deaths; the Maternal Mortality Rate there fore was Nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births, the rate for 1953 also being Nil.

Pneumonia.—One notification was received and there was one death due to pneumonia which was of a non-notified case.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 3 cases of Pulmonary (1 male and 2 females) and 4 other forms (all males) of Tuberculosis were notified. There were also 3 Pulmonary inward transfers (2 male, 1 female). Two pulmonary cases (1 male and 1 female) previously notified, received Sanatorium treatment whilst of the 4 Non-respiratory cases (2 of which were of glands) 2 cases of meningitis received treatment in hospital.

The following table shows the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1954:—

New Cases				Deaths			
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	4	0	0	0	1	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 10.

The age range of new cases was:—

Pulmonary	20 - 35 years
Non-Pulmonary	1 - 30 years

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1954 was as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ..	17	18	35
Non-pulmonary ..	0	6	6
	4	6	10
	—	—	—
All cases	21	24	45

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was not very prevalent though one death was recorded from this disease, so that the Influenza death rate was .19 per 1,000 of the population, the same as in 1953.

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939)—There was one case of Measles notified but none of Whooping Cough. No death was recorded from measles. The case rates and death rates in 1954 therefore respectively, per 1,000 of the population as follows.—

Measles .19 and Nil, Whooping Cough Nil and Nil.

Hospital accommodation as provided by the West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases remains more or less the same.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.—During 1954 no elementary school in Cockermouth was closed on account of infectious disease,

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR,

M. M. DIXON, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.San.I.

For the Year 1954.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bulk supply of water is obtained from the Workington Corporation's trunk main as it passes through Cockermouth from Crummock Water. The amount taken during the year was 103,000,000 gallons, equivalent to an average daily consumption per head of 53 gallons. This figure includes trade supplies which account for about 10% of the total consumption.

The supply is chlorinated at Lorton. Samples are taken regularly both by the Workington Corporation and in the town by my department. Reports on analyses carried out at the Pathological Laboratory of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, describe the supply as bacteriologically highly satisfactory.

A small bulk supply is taken from the Cockermouth Rural District Council's main at Papecastle to serve several properties situate on the northern boundary of the Urban area. The average daily amount concerned was 1,500 gallons.

The amount pumped to the high level areas of the town, supplied via the Council's Sunscles reservoir has averaged 80,000 gallons per day, being 28% of the total consumption.

Tenders were invited during the year for a 1,000 yard mains extension to serve properties in the Simonscles Lane area. The total length of distribution mains in the area remained at approximately nine miles.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A Local Inquiry was held in January to consider the recommendations of the Consultant Engineers relating to renewal of certain main sewers to overcome excessive infiltration of ground water. In the absence of any grant from the Minister towards the scheme the Council were obliged to limit their immediate proposals to improving arrangements for sludge pumping at the sewage disposal works, together with other minor improvements to the existing plant. Permission was received to proceed with this work and tenders were invited. (At the time of writing, the improvement works are in progress).

Duplicate pumping machinery was installed at the Goat sewage pumping station.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

The service of scavenging and refuse removal continued as in the previous year. Waste paper was salvaged, baled and sold.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the position in Cockermouth Urban District at the end of 1954. No serious defects were noted by the Sanitary Inspector who made 48 visits.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Defects found	Defects Remedied
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16*	11	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	25	37	2	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	—	—	—	—
	41	48	2	2

*11 of these relate to bakehouses.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

A firm of Knackers and Fellmongers continued to operate in the area. The premises were inspected regularly and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Act's provisions were implemented during the year, baiting and poisoning service being provided for all classes of premises. The cost of work done at business premises was recovered from the owners but the service to domestic premises continues free.

The Council's properties, including sewers, refuse tip and sewage disposal works were regularly treated.

HOUSING.

During the year, 20 houses were completed and occupied on the Slatefell Estate.

Four houses were built by private enterprise.

Construction of 32 flats on the former Workhouse site at Sullart Street was commenced towards the end of the year.

No reduction was apparent in the number of applicants for tenancy of Council houses.

During the past ten years 324 Council and 42 private enterprise houses have been built in the Urban area.

Housing Appendix

STATISTICS.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	33
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	42
2	Action under Statutory powers:—	
	(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	0
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts— ...	1
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
	(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Closing Orders) ...	4

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—During the year, licences were granted by the Council for three private slaughter houses following the derestriction of Meat Marketing. At the same time the Council made representations to the Ministry regarding the desirability of establishing a central abattoir in Cockermouth to serve the surrounding area.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1954:—12 lbs. sausage; 5 lbs. pork; 7 lbs. tinned meat; 14 lbs. tinned tongue; 59 lbs. tinned ham; 6 lbs. corned beef; 9 small tins vegetables; 51 small tins fruit; 21 tins milk; 13½ stones fish; 50 lbs. currants; 3 gallons orange juice.

All items were surrendered voluntarily.

Sanitary Inspector's Summary to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

NUISANCES:—

Nuisances reported to Council	1
Written Intimatory Notices served after inspection ...	6
Written Intimatory Notices complied with	6

DETAILED SANITARY WORK:—

Chocked Drains, defective L.C.'s and gullies	37
Housing Inspections	42
Factory Inspections	48
Visits to Knaekery	6
Personal visits re condemnations of food stuffs ...	15

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED DURING 1954.

Henton—Garage, Kirkgate House.
 Morris—Garage, Skinner Street.
 Cleator Moor Brewery Co.—Bathroom, Crown Inn.
 Sandwith—Garage, 3, Lonsdale Terrace.
 Wood—General Store, Windmill Lane.
 County Garage Co. Ltd.—Garage and Showroom, Lorton Street.
 Jackson—Bungalow, Castlegate Drive.
 Hetherington—Two Houses, Isel Road.
 Vicarage—Lorton Road.
 Pattinson—Garage, Fern Bank.
 Bell—Bakehouse and Shop, 14/16, St. Helen's Street.
 de Coene—House, Isel Road.
 Stephenson—House, Beech Lane.
 Harkness and Co.—Filling Station, Goat Road.
 Todd—Bathroom and Garage, 3, Skiddaw View.
 U.D.C.—32 Flats, Sullart Street.
 Benson—Garage, Skinner Street.
 R.D.C.—Caretaker's Flat, Holmewood.
 T. Armstrong Ltd.—Office Extension, South Street.
 Waite—Garage and Kitchen, Brigham Road.
 Millers Ltd.—Storage Sheds, Derwent Mills.
 T. Armstrong Ltd.—Two Houses, Isel Road.
 Hartley—Garage, 28, Mayo Street.
 Dnnlop—Garage, 19, Parkside Avenue.
 Forsyth—Bathroom and Kitchen, 8/10, New Street.
 Wild—Garage, 2, Richmond Hill.
 T. Armstrong Ltd.—Two Houses, Isel Road.
 Rotherham Ltd.—Factory Extension, Marks Lane.
 T. Armstrong Ltd.—Bathroom, 2, Fletcher Street.
 Ostle—Garage, 61, Fitz Road.
 Graham—House, Tweed Mill Lane.
 Morgan—Garage, 3, Sunnyside.
 Jolly—Bathroom, 73, St. Helen's Street.
 Salkeld—Filling Station, Oakhurst Road.
 Robinson—Bungalow, Isel Road.
 Parkin—Bathroom, Greenbank Farm.
 Eland—Bathroom, Waterloo Street.
 Walker—Garage, 22, Mayo Street.

